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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Armenia's aggression against Agdam district in Azerbaijan, which has come to the forefront of attention in the world's major countries, is eliciting their condemnation.

In a statement issued on 24 July 1993, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation indicated that "ignoring the warnings issued by Russia and other members of the international community, Armenian armed formations have once again launched aggressive operations and, according to the reports that have been received, they have seized the Azerbaijani city of Agdam, which lies outside the limits of Nagorny Karabakh". Particularly noteworthy is the reference in the statement to the fact that "the taking of Agdam has been carried out in spite of the assurances given to the Russian side by Armenia's official representatives that no offensive operations would be launched by Armenian formations on the ground and that they had no intention of attacking Agdam".

The statement goes on to say that "all of this is occurring at a time when some genuine progress is beginning to be made in the negotiating process, as evidenced by the outcome of the recent visit to the area of the conflict by the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group, Mr. Rafaelli, and the work which that group is currently carrying out in Rome. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation is authorized to state that the Russian leadership wishes to express its most profound concern over such actions by the Armenian side."

The statement concludes by emphasizing that "Russia's position remains unchanged: an immediate cease-fire and implementation of Security Council resolution 822 (1983) and the proposals of the CSCE Minsk Group as the basis for promoting a political settlement in Nagorny Karabakh".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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